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AN ADDITION TO THE GENUS *ANISOPS* OF AUSTRALIA (HEMIPTERA: NOTONECTIDAE)

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Abstract.—*Anisops ayersi*, a new species from Ayers Rock, Northern Territory, Australia, is described and the male diagnostic features figured.

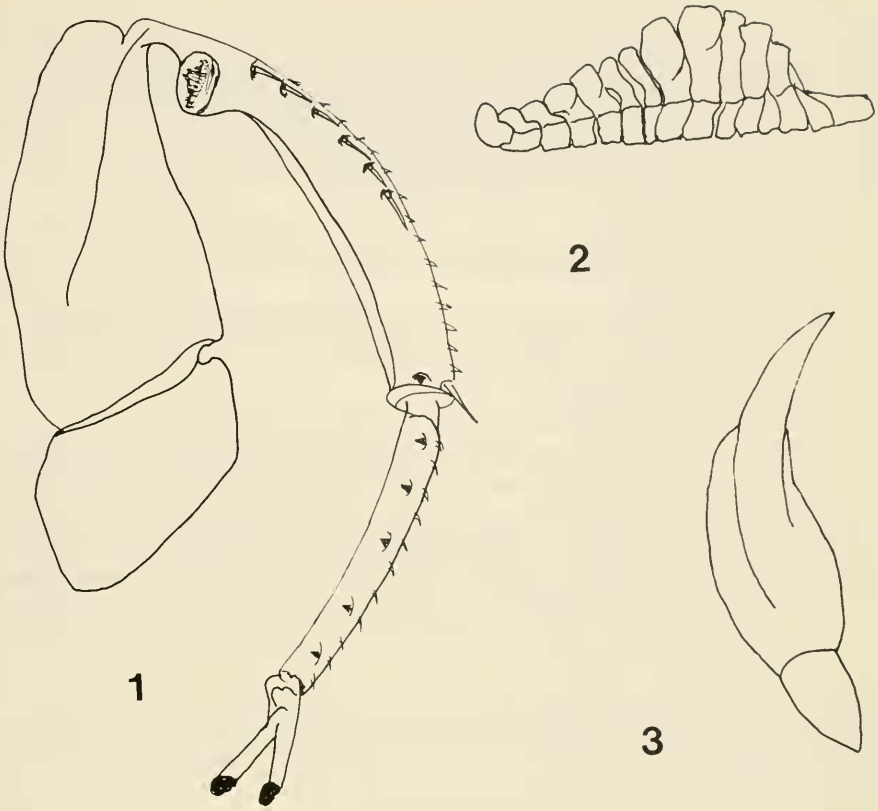
During a three month collecting tour of Australia for notonectids in the fall of 1980, I had the opportunity to visit Ayers Rock. This giant sandstone monolith (4 miles long × 1½ miles wide × 1143 feet high) is located about 280 road miles southwest of Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

The annual rainfall at Ayers Rock averages only about six inches a year, but, at the base of the Rock, two shallow pools are sustained by the groundwater that results from the runoff of these occasional rains. The first of the two pools, Initi, on the north side, has a circumference of about 25 feet; the second, called Mutidjula, is on the south side and is about 10 feet larger. Vegetation is sparse in each pool but a population of tadpoles and small *Anisops* seem to thrive. The *Anisops* turned out to be an undescribed species herein described as *Anisops ayersi*.

Anisops ayersi Reichart, New Species

Size: Male, 5.9 mm long, greatest body width 1.6 mm; female, 5.7 mm long, greatest body width 1.58 mm. *Shape:* Short, robust species. *Color:* Eyes yellowish grey, mottled with red. Vertex greyish red. Pronotum hyaline permitting color beneath to show through. Scutellum yellowish brown except apex which is clear hyaline. Hemelytra hyaline. Abdomen yellowish brown, ventrally dark reddish brown with keel and segmental margins of connexivum brownish yellow. Legs yellowish brown.

Male structural characteristics.—Viewed from above, head rounded with vertex slightly indented. Greatest width of head slightly less than pronotal humeral width, 8½ × anterior width of vertex and slightly less than 3× median head length. Synthlipsis $^3/_5$ as wide as anterior width of vertex. Median head length equal to median pronotal length. Humeral width of pronotum slightly more than 2× the longitudinal length of pronotum; lateral



Figs. 1–3. *Anisops ayersi*. 1, Left foreleg. 2, Stridulatory comb of tibia. 3, Rostral prong.

margins of pronotum divergent and ½ median longitudinal length of pronotum; posterior margin of pronotum subtly sinuous in the conventional convex-concave anisopine pattern; median shallow depression extending almost full length of pronotal disk. Scutellum ¼ wider than long. Facial tubercle slightly swollen, truncate above labrum with a few scattered white hairs. Frons depressed between eyes from tubercle to vertex. Labrum barely wider than long, apex broadly rounded with 3 long, white hairs on midline. Rostral prong (Fig. 3) bluntly acuminate and shorter than 3rd rostral segment. Stridulatory comb (Fig. 2) with 14–15 teeth which increase in length from outer and inner margins to center. Chaetotaxy of left foreleg as shown in Fig. 1.

Female structural characteristics.—Viewed from above head rounded with anterior margin fairly straight; vertex slightly indented; greatest head width slightly less than pronotal humeral width; 6⅔× anterior width of

vertex. Synthlipsis ½ anterior width of vertex. Median length of head 5/6 median length of pronotum. Humeral width of pronotum 2½× median length; lateral margins divergent and ½ median longitudinal length of pronotum; posterior margin weakly convex and medianly indented. Scutellum length 11/13 of width. Frons above facial tubercle slightly swollen; truncate above labrum. Labrum with base slightly wider than long; apex bluntly rounded.

Types and type-locality.—♂ (holotype) and 2 ♀ (paratypes), Initi waterhole, Ayers Rock, Northern Territory, Australia, 8-X-80. Mark E. Pion and C. V. Reichart.

Deposition of types.—Holotype and one paratype desposited in the Australian National Insect Collection at Canberra, A.C.T.; one paratype retained in author's collection.

Comparative notes.—*Anisops ayersi* is similar in appearance and measurements to *A. nabilla* Lansbury (1969) but can be easily distinguished from the latter by the arrangement of teeth in the stridulatory comb and the structure of the third rostral segment. In *A. ayersi* the teeth increase in length from inner and outer margins toward the center while those of *A. nabilla* increase in length from inner to outer margin. The apex of the third rostral segment is wider than the base of the fourth segment in *A. nabilla*, as in *A. deanei* Brooks (1951), whereas in *A. ayersi* the two segments are the same width at the junction.

I did not attempt to place this species in Brooks' (1951) key. Since the revision by Brooks, 27 species have been added to *Anisops*, and a new key is badly needed.

Literature Cited

Brooks, G. T. 1951. A revision of the genus *Anisops* (Notonectidae, Hemiptera). Univ. Kans. Sci. Bull. 34: 304–519.

Lansbury, I. 1969. The genus *Anisops* in Australia. J. Nat. Hist. 3(3): 433–458.